



CLEAN WATER ACTION

MICHIGAN

May 3, 2012

Re: Clean Water Action opposition to SB 1090

Dear Honorable Members of the Senate Natural Resources, Environment, and Great Lakes Committee,

On behalf of our over 250,000 Michigan members, Clean Water Action urges you to oppose Senate Bill 1090.

Clean Water Action has thousands of engaged members who live in areas affected by contaminated sites. Community members in these areas are informed about the health impacts of exposure to the dangerous elements released from brownfield clean-up sites, and they should have a right to weigh-in on decisions. These citizens also deserve to be treated with respect by the state by ensuring clean-ups are progressing as quickly and as thoroughly as possible. However, this bill does exactly the opposite.

The language of the bill proposes a number of changes to clean-up standards that would have serious consequences on the Michiganders who live and work near contaminated sites such as:

- A disturbing lack of governmental oversight of key elements of remediation like clean-up plans that include discharges of harmful elements into our surface waters.
- Removal of public input on decisions for "mixing zone" and other attempts at pollution dilution.
- Letting polluters off the hook under vague claims of "impracticality."

In a time where Michigan residents are calling for more protections from dangerous chemicals, it is wrong to give up these important elements of the state's regulatory oversight of brownfield remediation sites. Bad actors must not be able to pull the wool over the state's eyes and continue to pollute our water and endanger public health. That is what will happen if this legislation passes and the fox is left to guard the henhouse.

For these and many additional reasons, we urge you to oppose SB 1090.

Sincerely,

Susan E. Harley, J.D.
Michigan Policy Director